

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02846 031241Z

47

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TAGS: PINT PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN EDITORIAL REACTION FOR SCRANTON NOMINATION

1. NOMINATION OF WILLIAM SCRANTON TO REPLACE AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AT USUN HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF TWO EDITORIALS BOTH OF WHICH SEE NOMINATION AS EVIDENCE OF FAVORABLE SHIFT IN US POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. DIPLOMATIC EDITOR OF LEADING DAILY AHRAH, HAMDI FUAD, WROTE FEBRUARY 27 THAT PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED IN PERSON APPOINTMENT OF SCRANTON TO ERASE FROM MEMORY PICTURE GIVEN BY FORMER USDELEGATE OF US STAND TOWARD INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS IN GENERAL AND MIDDLE EAST IN PARTICULAR. WHILE IT IS TRUE HEAD OF AMERICAN DEL CANNOT CHANGE POLICY, HE CAN THROUGH DIPLOMATIC AND TACTFUL MEANS LESSEN THE UGLINESS AND ACCENTUATE GOOD QUALIFITES. SCRANTON IS THE NAME THAT EVERY PRESIDENT SEEKS BEFORE ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF HIS NEUTRALITY AND INTEGRITY. SCRANTON IS THE DIPLOMAT WHO BECAME THE VICTIM OF ISRAEL FOR THE TRUTH HE SPOKE IN 1968 THEREBY ENDING OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER FOR EIGHT YEARS. SCRANTON'S CRIME WAS HIS STATEMENT THAT AMERICA MUST FOLLOW AN EVEN-HANDED POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT SAFEGUARDING ISRAEL'S SECURITY IS ONE THING AND RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES ANOTHER

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02846 031241Z

THING. ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE IN ISRAEL UNTIL THE OFFICIAL

SPOKESMAN OF THE US PRESIDENT SAID SCRANTON'S VIEWPOINT WAS NOT NECESSARILY THAT OF PRESIDENT ELECT NIXON. SCRANTON FLEW TO AMERICA AND DID NOT REAPPEAR. HE PAID THE PRICE OF HIS STATEMENT. SCRANTON CAN SUCCEED IN HIS MISSION IF HE FOLLOWS THE POLICY HE BELIEVES IN, NAMELY TOTAL NON-ALIGNMENT TOWARDS ISRAEL AND ADOPTION OF AN EVEN-HANDED POLICY. AS HE HAS SAID, THE US IS NOT ASKED TO ADOPT A CERTAIN COUNTRY AND IGNORE THE OTHERS IN AREA.

3. ABDEL HAMID ABDEL GHANI WRITING IN AKBAR MARCH 1 SAYS THAT SCRANTON APPOINTMENT IS CONCRETE EXAMPLE THAT ISRAEL HAS LOST MUCH OF ITS INFLUENCE OVER AMERICAN POLICY, AND HE COMPARES SCRANTON TO FORMER PERMREP ARTHUR GOLDBERG. FOLLOWING SCRANTON'S 1968 TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST HE SAID EVEN HANDED POLICY BECAME AN ACCUSATION IN AMERICA AND EVERY AMERICAN OFFICIAL ABSOLVED HIMSELF OF SUCH POLICY BUT SCRANTON DID NOT AND SUBSEQUENTLY HE DISAPPEARED FROM THE POLITICAL LIMELIGHT. AMERICA WOULD NOT HAVE APPOINTED SCRANTON TO REPLACE MOYNIHAN, WHO LOOKS DOWN ON AFRICAN, ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, AND PARTICULARLY THE ARABS, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE FACT THAT THE US IS NOW GOING THROUGH A STAGE OF DEEP CHANGE IN HER FOREIGN POLICY ESPECIALLY IN HER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE THIRD WORLD. THIS APPOINTMENT WAS MADE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHICH IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE JEWS HAVE LOST MUCH OF THEIR POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN AMERICA AND THAT US HAS CHANGED HER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TWO SIDES OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW IF THESE EDITORIALS WERE OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY WERE OR NOT, THEY ACCURATELY REFLECT EGYPTIAN SATISFACTION WITH SCRANTON APPOINTMENT. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL NEAR-EUPHORIA THAT EXISTED HERE, AS ELSEWHERE IN ARAB WORLD, FOLLOWING SCRANTON'S TRIP IN 1968.
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